

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121120
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PORG, IZ, AF

SUBJECT: IRAQI DILEMMA IN THE HORN

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 1010, (B) BAGHDAD 931

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 121120

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD MAKE ANYTHING THAT COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS A FORMAL DEMARCHE TO THE GOI AT THIS TIME ON

HORN ISSUES, BASICALLY FOR REASONS YOU OUTLINED IN PARA 6
OF REF (B).

2. WE ASSUME YOU WILL BE TAKING UP OTHER ISSUES. IF YOU

CAN SWING THE TALK TO HORN ISSUE AND THE IRAQI OFFICIAL IS WILLING TO DISCUSS IT, YOU MAY USE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- WE SEE NO NEED FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET AND CUBAN PERSONNEL, INCLUDING CUBAN COMBAT FORCES. THE ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION GIVEN FOR THEIR PRESENCE, THE FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN, HAS ENDED.
-- THE CUBANS ARE NOW APPARENTLY ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A COMBAT ROLE IN ERITREA. SINCE THERE IS NO INVADING FORCE INVOLVED ON ERITREA'S SIDE, CUBA'S JUSTIFICATION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN

ERITREA IS OPEN TO QUESTION.

-- THE CUBAN PRESENCE IS CONTRARY TO THE AFRICANS' PRINCIPLE THAT REGIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES, AND IS A POTENTIALLY HIGHLY DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

-- OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE HORN AND THE PEACEFUL RECONCILIATION OF DISPUTES.

-- IN THE CASE OF ERITREA, WE FAVOR A PEACEFUL, POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE ERITREANS. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 121120

-- ONE POSSIBLE BASIS FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD BE THE UNITED NATION'S 1950 FEDERATION SOLUTION, WHICH WAS TERMINATED BY THE PREVIOUS ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1962. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS RECTIFIED MANY OF THE ERRORS OF THE PAST, WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS INHERITED SITUATION AS WELL.

3. WE BELIEVE THE IRAQIS ARE NOW ON THE RIGHT TRACK-- CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET-CUBAN ACTIONS--AND WE DON'T WANT TO OVERPLAY OUR HAND. ANY DISCUSSION SHOULD BE IN A COOL AND MATTER-OF-FACT FASHION.
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